



## Michigan Nurses Association

The Power of <sup>more than</sup> One

**TO:** Members of the House Great Lakes and Environment Committee

**FROM:** Ken Fletcher, Director of Government Affairs

**DATE:** March 5, 2009

**RE:** MNA support for House Bill 4402

The Michigan Nurses Association (MNA) supports restricting the use of Lindane for the pharmaceutical treatment of lice and scabies.

Lindane is readily absorbed into the body upon exposure, and causes acute toxicity to the nervous system. The United States Environmental Protection Agency considers Lindane a "possible carcinogen." The Food and Drug Administration reports that in rare cases adverse effects have resulted from a single application of Lindane in accordance with directions.

Lindane also poses an environmental threat because it is a persistent, bioaccumulative toxin. One dose of Lindane can contaminate six million gallons of water, and it is expensive and difficult to remove. Small amounts are acutely toxic and can be lethal if ingested.

As nurses, our members work daily to promote the health and safety of Michigan's public. Restricting the use of Lindane will reduce the public's exposure to another acutely toxic compound. Due to Lindane's negative health impacts and environmental contamination, it has been banned in over 50 countries and the State of California.

Other safer alternatives can easily replace this poison. There are less toxic and more effective treatments available, including non-chemical options.

We strongly urge this committee to act on behalf of the Michigan public and protect it from exposure to this dangerous compound by passing H.B. 4402.

Thank you very much.

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